ABSTRACT

A liquid crystal display LCD comprises a surface light source device of side light type for lighting. On lightening of a fluorescent lamp, primary light is introduced into a guide plate and propagates within the guide plate. Much of illumination light enters into any one of ridges on an emission–function face, being followed by inner impingement upon a flank face, which is remoter from an incidence end face, at an entry angle greater than critical angle θ 1. Much of light which has undergone such inner impingement is supplied to a liquid crystal display panel almost frontward via a top face. The ridges are inclined at a predetermined inclination angle α with respect to the incidence end face of the guide plate. Inclination angle α preferably falls within a range from 5 degrees to 45 degrees, in particular, from 15 degrees to 30 degrees. Employment of size–reduced ridges is realizable, leading to avoiding the ridges from being conspicuous without reducing emission function. Moire fringes are preventable, too. Each ridge may be provided with all or some of " tapered shape " , " inclined flank face " and " foot portions with a stepwise difference " .

(Fig.1)